Revision of criteria for DPCO

3845. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had a proposal to revise the criteria for inclusion of drugs and their formulations under the Drug Price Control Order;

(b) whether it would be a part of the proposed Drug Policy;

(c) if so, by when such new Drug Policy is going to be announced; and

(d) the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) to (d) The Government had constituted a Committee to review the present price control mechanism with a view to reducing the rigours of price control, where they had become counter productive. The Committee has since submitted its report suggesting measures in that direction. Any change in the Drug Policy will take into consideration all relevant factors including the recommendations of the Committee on criteria for inclusion of drugs and their formulations under price control.

Misuse of fertilizer subsidy

3846. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the rationale for providing subsidy on fertilizers;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to ensure that subsidy is not misused;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) how Government propose to safeguard the interest of small and marginal farmers?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) Government provides subsidy on urea and concession on decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers with the objective of making available fertilizers to farmers